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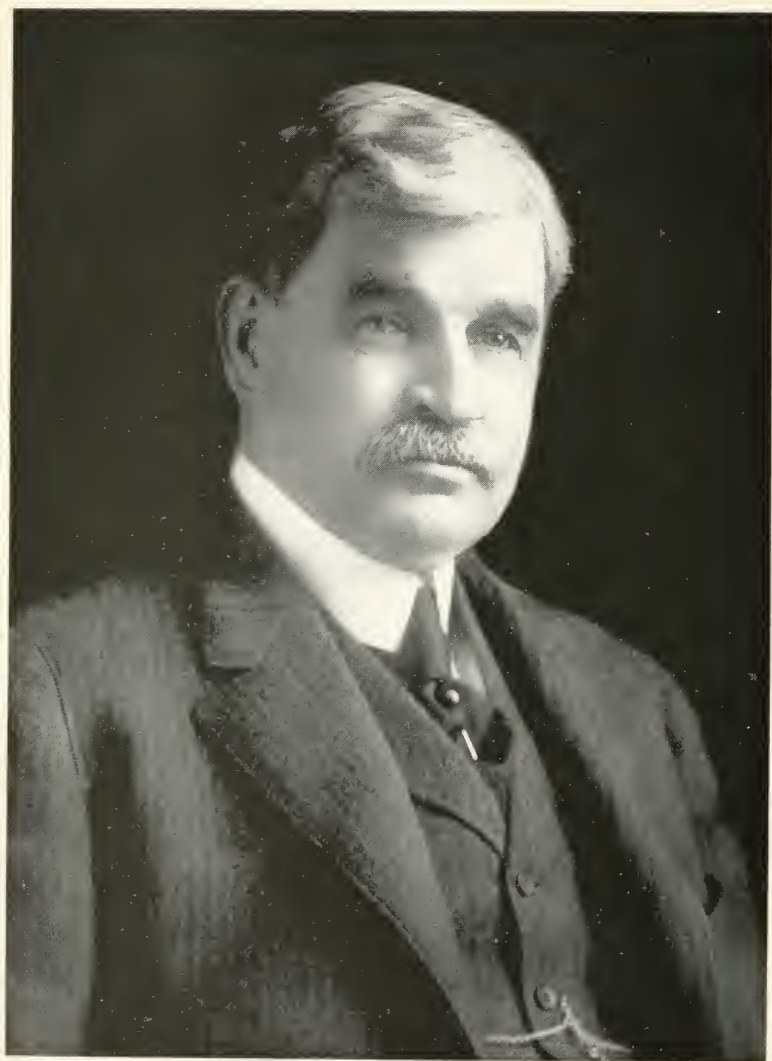
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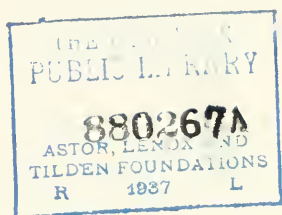
# In Memoriam

Sylvester Clark Dunham

1846-1915

1915  
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# Resolutions





THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS of  
The Travelers Insurance Company  
has the sorrowful duty of recording  
the death of its beloved  
President,

*Sylvester Clark Dunham*

who died on the twenty-sixth day of October,  
Nineteen hundred and Fifteen at the age of  
sixty-nine years.

He entered the employ of the Company as  
a special attorney November second, Eighteen  
hundred and Eighty-five. He later became its  
Counsel, and was elected a Director January  
twenty-seventh, Eighteen hundred and Ninety-  
seven, Vice-President January eleventh, Eighteen  
hundred and Ninety-nine, and upon the death of  
President James G. Batterson succeeded to his  
office October fourteenth, Nineteen hundred  
and One.

Mr. Dunham's success as shown in the  
execution of the commissions with which he was  
first entrusted brought to him the position of  
Counsel. He was endowed by nature with  
unusual perception in the analysis of facts, a





## Sylvester Clark Dunham

strong sense of justice and an uncommon force of will. His promotion in the Company followed through the competence, foresight and skill which he displayed in each successive office to which he was elected.

He brought to the office of President in addition to his equipment and training as a lawyer a comprehensive knowledge of the science of insurance and a sturdy reliance upon his own decisions. He was moderate in statement, but he carried to execution unfalteringly his judgments founded as they were both on a just estimate of past experience and a clear vision of the Company's possible future.

To his modest consciousness of mental power were added a charm of personality and a sympathetic disposition which endeared him to his associates and imbued them with his ideals.

If, however, we were called upon to name the quality of his nature and training which contributed beyond all else to his success as a leader of the Company it was his intuition and judgment in the selection of his executive associates, his power to inspire them with his own loyalty to the Company's history and enthuse them through his own constructive imagina-



## Sylvester Clark Dunham

tion for the Company's progress and development. He never drove the Company's organization; he guided it. He was not averse to accepting suggestions for the Company's advancement, wherever originating.

He never arrogated to himself undue credit. He combined kindness of heart with strict justice. He received loyal adherence from his associates and subordinates in return for his appreciation of their thoughts and efforts in the Company's behalf.

As few men can ever hope to be Mr. Dunham was loved, respected and admired. His taking away means an irreparable loss to this Company and must be a grief beyond words to his family. But his life was full and rich in achievement. He lived and died a good and faithful servant, a noble leader and master, a man without fear and without reproach.

In entering this expression of our sorrow and sympathy upon the records of this Company we feel assured that the ideals of conduct, personal and corporate, which Mr. Dunham impressed on others will remain fundamental principles in the guidance of the work to which his life was devoted.



# A Tribute

From the  
President of  
The Metropolitan  
Life Insurance  
Company





HE who would attempt an appreciation of the life and work, the character and achievements, of Sylvester C. Dunham, would enter upon a difficult task. He would hardly know where to begin, or, beginning, where to end. Ordinary words are powerless to adequately express the grace and charm of his forceful yet modest personality.

It was the writer's privilege to know him from the time he first allied himself with The Travelers, thirty years ago. In the varied relations he held with that notable Company, as Counsel, Director, Vice-President and President, he was always the same tireless, indefatigable, intelligent, effective co-worker.

When his great associate and chief, President Batterson, passed away, after forty years of distinguished service, no man was considered as the one upon whom his mantle could fittingly fall but Sylvester Dunham. And the career of the Company under his leadership has well attested the wisdom of its choice. During the fourteen years of his presidency its accumulations have risen from thirty-four to one hundred





## *Sylvester Clark Dunham*

millions of dollars, and its outstanding life insurance from one hundred fifteen to three hundred eighty millions. Mr. Dunham would have been the last man to claim these achievements as his own. The Travelers has always had strong men without and strong men within; but the men closest to him in the stress and strain of its upbuilding are most emphatic as to the one mind that dominated, without domineering, all. He sounded the key-note. He was the pacemaker. He led the charge. He was the Henry of Navarre on whose white plume in the thick of the conflict all eyes centered and, following whom, all shared in the common Victory.

His life, from the time of his admission to the Bar, more than forty years ago, was one of varied and important service, and a review of the diverse phases of its activity is but the measure and appraisal of its value. This is not the place in which to schedule his business achievements more than to say that they embraced participation in numerous important financial and manufacturing interests in his City, State and elsewhere, in all of which, as Officer, Trustee or Director, the same qualities of untiring industry, unswerving fidelity, high



## Sylvester Clark Dunham

intelligence and scrupulous integrity were alike conspicuous. No man could bring to the discharge of duty a more conscientious service. He achieved success because he deserved it.

Beyond this, in the broad realm of public service, apart from his devotion to The Travelers and other business enterprises, he found time to maintain active, vital relations with the civic, philanthropic and educational movements of the community honored by his citizenship. Whatsoever things were honest, whatsoever things were just, whatsoever things were of good report found in him a ready and effective advocate. By all these interests his departure will be sadly deplored.

He will be missed, too, in the broad domain of Life Insurance, outside the scope of his own Company, for he was ever ready with voice and pen, by counsel and example, by labor and service, to elevate the standard and stimulate to highest development the great beneficence to which so much of his life was devoted.

Further, he will be greatly mourned by his associates and comrades—all who fought under The Travelers flag—both at the Home Office and in the Field. To them, as one of their number



## Sylvester Clark Dunham

feelingly remarked, "he was always kind, courteous, gracious and helpful." He sought to cultivate among them the true family feeling. In spirit and purpose they have been a unit. They will cherish the memory of his fine example, his sound judgment and his rare companionship as a priceless heritage. They regarded him with a pride as strong as their affection was deep.

To the choice spirits of his household he was a benediction. In his presence the Altar of that Sanctuary was never without its burning coal and its fragrant incense. It was a paradise to him and to those who loved and leaned upon him.

The unusual tributes accorded him by the press of his City and State, united with others from all quarters of the country—the numberless messages of condolence from notable men, far and near—the mass of floral tributes from every State in the Union—all bear eloquent testimony to the exalted respect in which he was held as a man of high ideals; of a helpful, encouraging spirit; of unblemished honor; of a useful, beneficent life, always true to its convictions.

Thus has passed from us a man of noble stature, against whose fair honor and good name none can point the finger of reproach. He has



## Sylvester Clark Dunham

gone to his long home praised, honored and beloved.

The close of such a life as this is a very distinct loss to the public welfare, and it may well incite those moved by his memory to those high ideals of life and service which so conspicuously animated him.

J. R. H.





# Chronology



## Sylvester Clark Dunham

1846



APRIL 24th, born at Mansfield, Tolland County, Connecticut, the son of Jonathan Lyman Dunham and Abigail Hunt (Eldredge) Dunham; —a descendant of Elder

William Brewster of the Plymouth colony and Stephen Hopkins, who was a fellow Pilgrim with Brewster on the Mayflower; also of John Eldred of Suffolk, England, who was one of the founders of Virginia in 1607.

1857 Moved to Portage County, Ohio. Studied in Ohio academies, and then at Mount Union College in Alliance, Ohio.

1863 Began teaching school in Ohio.

1865 Returned to New Britain, Connecticut, and became editor of the New Britain "Record," and his spare time was occupied in the study of law in the office of the Hon. Charles E. Mitchell. Clerk of the City and Police Court of New Britain for three years.



## *Sylvester Clark Dunham*

- 1871 Admitted to the Hartford County Bar.
- 1873 Commenced the practice of law in Hartford, Connecticut, in the office of the Hon. Henry C. Robinson.
- 1877 October 18th, married Miss Mary Mercy Austin, daughter of Dr. James M. Austin of Bristol.
- 1882 Appointed City Attorney of Hartford.
- 1883 Became Secretary of the P. & F. Corbin Company of New Britain.
- 1885 November 2d, accepted the position of Special Attorney and later General Counsel of The Travelers Insurance Company.
- 1897 January 27th, elected a member of the Board of Directors of The Travelers Insurance Company.
- 1899 January 11th, elected Vice-President.
- 1901 October 14th, elected President.
- 1910 Appointed member of the Hartford Board of Finance.
- 1915 October 26th, died at his residence, 830 Prospect Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.



## Sylvester Clark Dunham

Mr. Dunham was President of The Travelers Indemnity Company and the Travelers Bank and Trust Company, and Vice-President of the National Exchange Bank. He was also a Director of the Metropolitan Bank and the American Surety Company of New York, the United Gas and Electric Corporation, the American Hardware Corporation of New Britain, the Glastonbury Knitting Company of Glastonbury, the Phoenix (Fire) Insurance Company, the Hartford City Gas Light Company, Colt's Patent Fire Arms Manufacturing Company, the Underwood Typewriter Company, and the First Reinsurance Company. He was a leading member of the Association of Life Insurance Presidents and one time President of the American Board of Casualty and Surety Underwriters.

In recent years Mr. Dunham had been a lecturer at Yale University.

He was a member and former Governor of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Connecticut, of the Sons of the American Revolution, and the Order of Founders and Patriots.

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